

Margaret Roberts THATCHER

UNITED KINGDOM

Prime Minister (since
May 1979)

Addressed as:
Prime Minister



According to the press, Margaret Thatcher is the Conservative Party's self-proclaimed crusader for the economic revival of Great Britain. She is the first woman to become British Prime Minister, and she was also the first European woman

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to reach the top national position. Thatcher earned that distinction after the elections in May 1979, in which her party gained a comfortable 43-seat majority in Parliament; she has been party leader since February 1975. Since she became Prime Minister, she has fulfilled several of her campaign promises: she has made substantial reductions in personal income taxes, prepared plans to sell some of Britain's nationalized industries, had some success in reforming the trade unions, and begun pruning the bureaucracy and reducing government involvement in the economy.

Thatcher came to the United States in 1967 as a Foreign Leader Grantee. On a return visit in 1975 she met with President Gerald Ford in Washington, and in 1977 and 1979 she met with President Jimmy Carter. On a state visit to Washington in February 1981, she renewed an acquaintance with President Ronald Reagan, whom she has known for several years.

After graduating from Oxford with honors in chemistry, Margaret Roberts studied law, specializing in tax legislation and patents. She enjoys listening to music by Bach, Beethoven and Chopin and reading detective stories, historical novels and biographies. The Prime Minister, 55, has been married since 1951 to Denis Thatcher, who retired as executive director of the Burmah Oil company in May 1975. The Thatchers have 27-year-old twins, Mark and Carol.

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